65887

TOP SECRET

6 SEP 68 21 01Z

T O P S E C R E T 062034Z SEP 68 CITE [redacted] 4535 25X1
PRIORITY [redacted] 25X1
REF [redacted] 0245 — IN 7731 25X1
SUBJECT: SLP BINARY DATA BLOCK ANOMALY - S/N - 7

1. RE REF MESSAGE, PARA 2A: THE DEGRADATION IS INTERMITTENT AND GRADUALLY BECOMES MORE PRONOUNCED AND FREQUENT THROUGHOUT MISSION 1104-1. ON MISSION 1104-2 THE FOLLOWING PATTERN IS ESTABLISHED: THE FIRST OR SECOND FRAME ON EACH OPERATION USUALLY HAS SHARP, WELL DEFINED DATA BLOCK IMAGES. THE QUALITY OF THE IMAGES ABRUPTLY CHANGES TO POOR (FUZZY) AT THE FOURTH OR FIFTH FRAME. THE IMAGES THEN BECOME PROGRESSIVELY POORER THROUGHOUT THE OPERATION. THIS PATTERN IS REPEATED AT EACH PERIOD OF CAMERA OPERATION.

2. RE REF MESSAGE, PARA 2B: THE LEAST SIGNIFICANT BINARY BITS OF THE DATA BLOCK ARE AFFECTED FIRST; HOWEVER, AS THE DEGRADATION BECOMES MORE SEVERE, A GREATER NUMBER OF BITS ARE DEGRADED. BY THE END OF MISSION 1104-1 AND THROUGHOUT MOST OF MISSION 1104-2, THE DEGRADATION AFFECTS THE ENTIRE TIME WORD.

3. RE REF MESSAGE, PARA 2 C: BECAUSE OF TIME LIMITATIONS, SIZE AND DENSITY MEASUREMENTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS INDICATES THAT THE DENSITY AND SIZE OF THE PROPERLY EXPOSED DOTS ARE VERY SIMILAR TO THOSE OF MISSION 1102. THE SIZE AND DENSITY OF THE DEGRADED IMAGES IS HIGHLY VARIABLE. THE DENSITY VARIES FROM "NORMAL" TO UNDETECTABLE, AND THE SIZE AND SHAPE VARIES TO A POINT WHICH RENDERS INDIVIDUAL DOTS UNDISTINGUISABLE.

4. RE REF MESSAGE, PARA 2D: THE STELLAR DATA BLOCK IS MACHINE READABLE THROUGHOUT THE MISSION. THERE IS NO APPARENT CORRELATION WITH THE INDEX CAMERA TIME WORD DEGRADATION.

5. THE FOREGOING IS THE RESULT OF A PRELIMINARY EVALUATION. DENSITY AND SIZE MEASUREMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE PET MEETING.

T O P S E C R E T

END OF MESSAGE

TOP SECRET

DISTRIBUTION

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ADVANCE CY SANITIZED WITH TEXT

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification